



# THE COLLEGIAN



Vol. 64, Issue 16

Monday, January 16, 2012

UTBCOLLEGIAN.COM

By Rene Cardona Jr.  
COLLEGIAN EDITOR

Students will see an increase in tuition for the coming 2013-2014 biennium, which will fund new initiatives to improve academic success, and although some fees will be adjusted, the total amount paid will not change.

UTB/TSC officials sent a proposal describing the changes in tuition and fees to the University of Texas System Dec. 15 after hosting public hearings last semester. However, revisions had to be made last week, said Linda Granja, UTB's financial analysis manager. The UT System had set a 2.6 percent limit on increases to designated tuition, but

## FINALIZED

### Proposal sets tuition increase but students won't see fees rise

officials made an error in their calculations by using 2.67 percent.

David Prior, UT System's executive vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, contacted UTB President Juliet V. García Wednesday to notify her of the mistake.

For Fall 2011 and Spring 2012, state residents paid \$150.67 per semester credit hour, and non-residents

paid \$463.65. Both types of students paid \$687.50 in fees if they signed up for 12 semester credit hours and \$765.50 if they signed up for 15.

Designated tuition and statutory tuition compose the cost students pay per semester credit hour. Changes can only be made to the former. Statutory tuition is mandated by

the Texas Legislature and remains at a static \$50 per semester credit hour (for state residents). UTB's proposal calls for an increase of 2.6 percent or \$5.30 and \$5.44 in designated tuition for fiscal years 2013 and 2014, respectively.

Consequently, a (resident

See **TUITION**, Page 6

**\$**  
*By the Numbers*

FY 2014 Tuition  
**\$161.39**  
per semester credit hour (state residents)  
FY 2013 Tuition  
**\$155.95**  
per semester credit hour (state residents)  
Current Tuition  
**\$150.67**  
per semester credit hour (state residents)

## PROFESSOR VS. UTB,TSC

> **Allegations of race, gender discrimination bring UTB, TSC to court. Judge sets trial in Brownsville.** **PAGE 3**

## IT WORKED

>> **Despite problems, number of students filling out course evaluations rises over previous figures.** **PAGE 5**

## OPINION

*“Although I know we must always respect faculty members, I believe students deserve the same treatment from everybody on campus.”*

>> **CARTOON: MY GERMS!** **PAGE 4**

## NANO

>> **A new program allows focus on the burgeoning and exciting field of nanotechnology.** **PAGE 5**

## ON THE WEB



## CHECK IT

Collegian photographers always wander campus. Will you be next?

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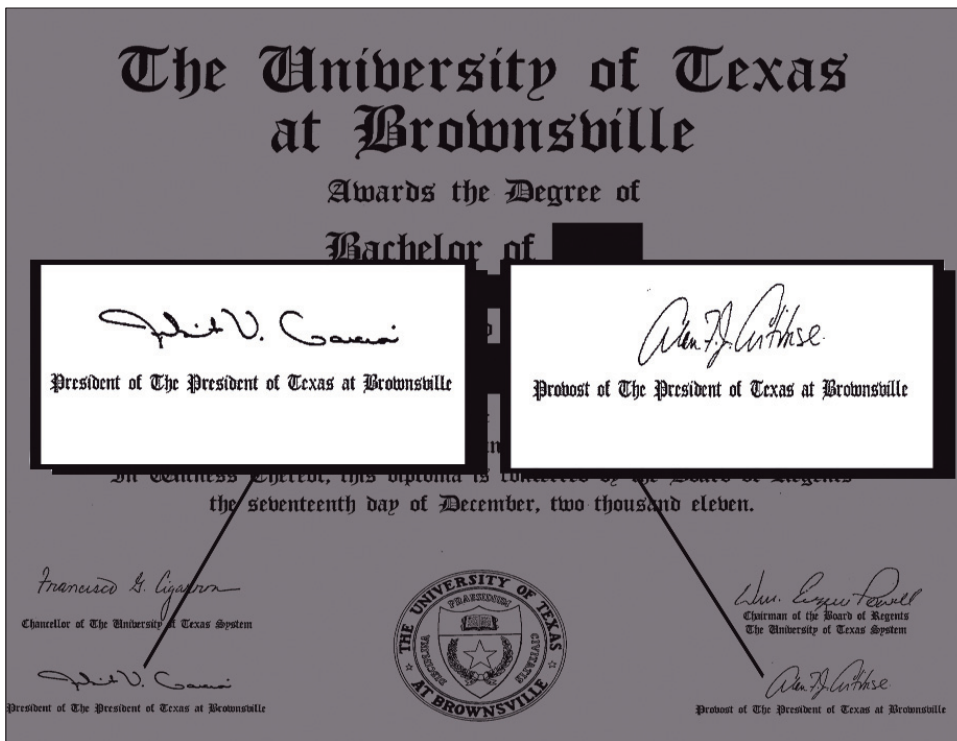
>> **Taliban: Afghan talks won't mean end to fighting**

>> **Retail sales weaken in Dec. but cap a record year**

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## Diplomas: Take 2



GRAPHIC BY MICHELLE SERRANO

Two errors showed up on 956 diplomas that were handed out during UTB/TSC's 17th Winter Commencement Dec. 17.

By Rene Cardona Jr.  
COLLEGIAN EDITOR

Blunders on the 956 diplomas that were issued during Winter Commencement 2011 required UTB/TSC to reprint the document for which graduates await their whole academic career.

Under UTB President Juliet V. García's signature, the diplomas read: "President of The President of Texas at Brownsville." Under Provost Alan Artibise's signature, the diplomas read: "Provost of The President of Texas at Brownsville."

Officials informed *The Collegian* that graduates can pick up their new diplomas in Tandy Hall 105 until Friday. The diplomas that remain after Friday will be mailed Jan. 23 to the address students provided on their graduation application. For questions, graduates may call the registrar at 882-8254 or send an email to registrar@utb.edu.

Although students did not incur the cost of reprinting, the university shelled out \$2,264.95 to produce a second set of diplomas, according to Meloney Linder,

UTB's vice president for Institutional Advancement.

The Office of Creative Services created both batches. Although the first set went through several offices, the typos were not caught, said Letty Fernandez, director of News and Information.

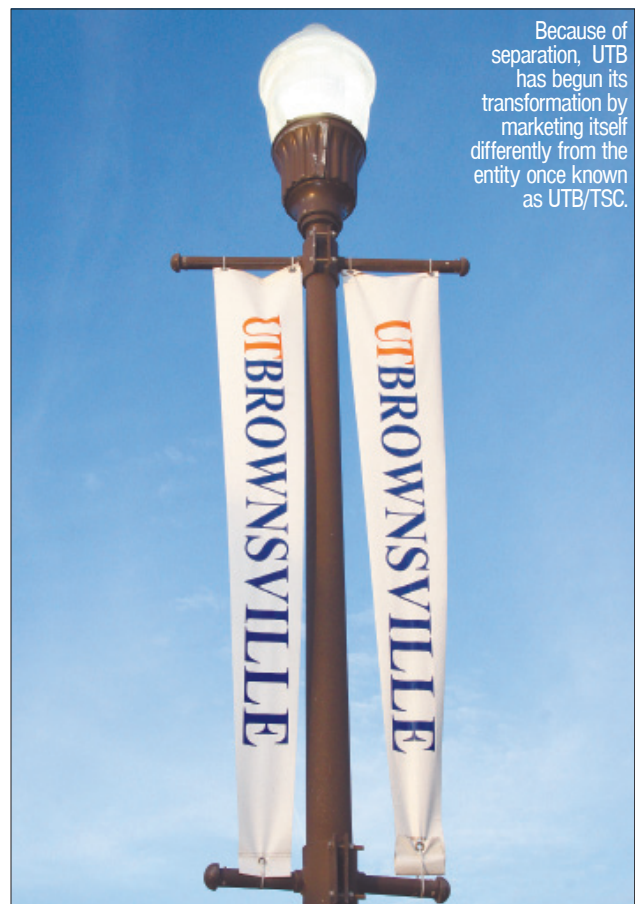
"I don't know how it slipped through," Artibise said. "It was a stupid mistake because 20 people looked at it and it slipped through."

The Printing Services Department printed the diplomas. Uncertainty remained about when exactly the diplomas would be ready because of a lack of cardstock, which had to be shipped in from the east and west coasts, officials from Printing Services said.

About 75 percent of the reprinted diplomas had been finished as of last Wednesday. The rest were finished Thursday.

The 17th Winter Commencement, held Dec. 17, hosted the largest class to earn degrees, with 1,420 students walking. Cold winds and a constant drizzle moved the

See **DIPLOMA**, Page 6



MIGUEL ANGEL ROBERTS/COLLEGIAN

Because of separation, UTB has begun its transformation by marketing itself differently from the entity once known as UTB/TSC.

## A chip off the old horn

### UTB 2.0 upgrades branding to match UT System

By Joe Molina  
THE COLLEGIAN

Changes in UTB's color scheme have not eluded students, staff and faculty. As the end of the UTB/TSC partnership approaches, the university has turned over a new leaf, leaving behind the traditional bright orange.

"UTB's colors are changing from real bright orange, that we have had traditionally, to the burnt orange and navy blue," said Meloney Linder, the university's vice president for Institutional Advancement. "That allows us to have a stronger connection to the UT brand as a whole as we move forward."

"We did a lot of focus groups with students, community members, administrators and staff to talk to them about what was important to them about promoting UTB [and] unanimously in every focus group that we had, everybody said that the most important thing was to play on the UT brand, the connection to UTB to UT System."

See **MARKETING**, Page 8



## SHOTS &amp; LABELS

MIGUEL ANGEL ROBERTS/COLLEGIAN PHOTOS

**Name:** Amy Rodriguez  
**Classification:** Sophomore  
**Major:** Communication  
**Clothing:** blouse, Forever 21 (\$20); black jeans, Dillard's (\$30); wedges, A'gaci (\$30)  
**Accessories:** bracelets, Icing (\$20); ring, A'gaci (\$6); earrings, Icing (\$6); Disney Collection Watch, gift; purse, Aldo's (\$50)  
**Who/what inspires your style?** "The climate."  
**Describe your style in three words:** "Classy, chic and bold."

-Compiled by Marlane Ashley Rodriguez



MIGUEL ANGEL ROBERTS/COLLEGIAN

Members of Psi Chi include (from left) Treasurer Joe Barroso, Amanda Gutierrez, Gaby Ortiz, Vice President Karla Lozoya and President Marisol Cervantes.

**Name:** Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology  
**Purpose:** To encourage, stimulate and maintain excellence in scholarship and to advance the science of psychology.  
**Established:** 2008  
**President:** Marisol Cervantes  
**Vice President:** Karla Lozoya  
**Secretary:** Julio Ibarra  
**Treasurer:** Joe Barroso  
**Adviser:** Deborah Huerta, assistant professor in the Behavioral Sciences Department  
**Activities:** Conducts research in psychology and has presented its findings at the Southwestern Psychological Association Conference and at the UTB/TSC Annual Research Symposium. Members have also participated in the annual MLK Day of Service and are active with the Student Government Association.  
**Meetings:** 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays in Cardenas Hall South 117.  
**Membership requirements:** Students interested in becoming members must have completed at least 9 hours of upper-level psychology courses, a minimum 3.0 overall GPA and a 3.1 GPA in their psychology courses. Applications can be picked up in Cardenas Hall South 260.  
**Dues:** \$45 for lifetime membership  
**For more information:** contact Huerta at [deborah.huerta@utb.edu](mailto:deborah.huerta@utb.edu) or Cervantes at [maricelcervant@aol.com](mailto:maricelcervant@aol.com).

-Compiled by Marlane Ashley Rodriguez

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2012!**



Graphic courtesy of Campus Recreation



By Héctor Aguilar  
THE COLLEGIAN

Put on your dancing shoes, your swimsuit and grab your spirit sticks for the various fun opportunities that await you the next two weeks.

Aiming to start students off on the right foot, Student Affairs will provide activities for them to become better acquainted with UTB/TSC during Welcome Week this semester.

Information stations will be set up from 9 a.m. to noon and 4-7 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday at the Student Union, the Education and Business Complex, Camille Lightner Center and the Endowment Courtyard. Volunteers will be available to answer any questions students may have.

“The goals of Welcome Week are to make sure [students] know where their classes are ... to make them feel welcome, where there are opportunities for engagement and networking with other students on campus and to let them know we’re glad to have them back for another semester,” said Student Life Director Sergio Martinez.

The first big event will be a *Tardeada*, an evening reception scheduled from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Education and Business Complex courtyard.

Students will be able to enjoy *pan dulce* (pastries), *aguas frescas* (fruit-flavored soft drinks) and coffee at the event.

For those trying to find an organization to join, the Student Involvement Fair, scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Student Union lawn, will offer the opportunity to learn about student organizations and departments on campus.

Friday morning, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., check out Student Health Services’ Health Carnival, where students can compete for prizes by playing health trivia games. The department will also have information about the services it provides. The carnival will be on the Paseo in front of Cortez Hall.

The Volleyball National Championship Celebration will take place from 5 to 6 p.m. Friday in the Garza Gym to commemorate the Scorpions’ Dec. 3 victory over California’s Concordia University.

Students will then have the option of attending the Alumni Baseball Game at Scorpion Field from 6 to 8:30 p.m. or the first annual Greek Ball in the Student Union’s Gran Salon from 6 to 11 p.m.

“We’re encouraging students to come, it’s not just a dance, it’s a civic engagement opportunity,” Martinez said about the ball. “We’re trying to raise canned goods for the Brownsville Food Bank.”

Admission will be \$5 or five cans of food. Students might have to brave cool weather as they dive into the pool during the second annual Penguin Plunge, which will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. Jan. 24 in the Recreation, Education and Kinesiology Center.

>> For the full list of events, see Page 9.

“Groups or individuals will jump in at the sound of the whistle and walk, run or swim across the width of the swimming pool. Once out of the water, not only will plungers have major bragging rights, but they will also have a hot shower waiting for them,” said Jamie Barnhill, Campus Recreation’s aquatic and event coordinator via email.

Participants and spectators will be treated to music and hot chocolate during the event, Barnhill said. The first 100 participants will receive a complimentary T-shirt and sign-up tables will be set up from 4:30-6 p.m. that day.

A pep rally to introduce the university’s baseball and golf teams will take place from noon to 1 p.m. Jan. 25 on the Student Union lawn.

Student and musician Nestor AnDress is scheduled to kick things off for Opening Day with a performance Jan. 26. Festivities run from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. The first home game of the season, against Nebraska’s Doane College, follows at 6 p.m.

The four-game series continues at 6 p.m. Jan. 27 and 11 a.m. Jan. 28 at Scorpion Field.

For more information on Welcome Week, call Martinez at 882-5138 or visit [www.utb.edu/studentlife](http://www.utb.edu/studentlife) or [www.facebook.com/utbstudentlife](http://www.facebook.com/utbstudentlife).

# MOTION GRANTED

Judge transfers professor’s discrimination case against UTB, TSC from McAllen to Brownsville



MIGUEL ANGEL ROBERTS/COLLEGIAN

Associate Professor of Business Mary Jane Saucedo brought a discrimination suit against UTB and TSC at the U.S. District Court in McAllen, but a judge ruled in favor of the university to move the trial to Brownsville.

By Rene Cardona Jr.  
COLLEGIAN EDITOR

After an associate professor of business filed a lawsuit against UTB and TSC, alleging race and gender discrimination, a judge has granted the university’s motion to transfer the case from Hidalgo County to Cameron.

Mary Jane Saucedo filed a claim of discrimination with the Texas Workforce Commission against UTB and TSC in late May, according to court documents. In June, Saucedo brought a suit against the university and college at the U.S. District Court in McAllen based on TWC’s recommendation.

Saucedo, a Hispanic, alleges UTB and TSC discriminated against her because of her race and gender. She is suing both entities for unlawful discrimination that violates Chapter 21 of the Texas Labor Code and the Equal Pay Act of 1963.

“She has consistently been treated less favorably than others ... or otherwise been subject to adverse treatment due to her race. ... UTB and TSC paid Ms. Saucedo less money than one or more male employees doing substantially equal work,” the court document states.

Saucedo declined to speak to *The Collegian*, and her attorney, Katie Pearson Klein of Dale Klein LLP, could not be reached for comment as of Wednesday afternoon.

As of December 2011, 42 percent of 408 full-time faculty at UTB/TSC were female, 36 percent were Hispanic, and 53 percent were white, according to information

provided by the university’s Office of Human Resources.

UTB and TSC deny Saucedo’s allegations and demand strict proof, according to the court documents.

The university is being represented by Erika M. Laremont, an assistant Texas attorney general, and the college is being represented by Frank E. Pérez of Frank E. Pérez & Associates.

Both attorneys declined to comment, saying they could not speak about pending litigation.

UTB filed a motion to transfer venue Sept. 26, stating Hidalgo County was not the proper county as the alleged events of the lawsuit occurred in Brownsville.

Pearson Klein argued against the motion to transfer venue, citing such factors as the plaintiff’s choice of forum and the fact that the assistant professor’s counsel is located in Hidalgo County as are two expert witnesses she anticipates to call to the stand.

On Dec. 22, Judge Micaela Alvarez ordered the case transferred to the U.S. District Court in Brownsville and assigned it to Judge Hilda G. Tagle. Saucedo has requested a trial by jury.

Saucedo is teaching three classes in the School of Business this semester at UTB, according to the course catalog. She received a doctorate in accounting from Texas A&M University-College Station in 2001 and maintains a certified public accountant license, her vitae states. UTB pays Saucedo a salary of \$90,212, according to governmental employee data compiled by The Texas Tribune.

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# What's Your Beef?

## Answer the phones

“Just the runaround that [UTB makes] you do. I actually got an email from accounting saying that I owe some money, I tried calling them to resolve the issue but they wouldn’t answer. I called both numbers and it kind of made me a little bit upset. ... Why do they give us these phone numbers for us to call and no answer? I know they’re busy, but at least have someone answer the phone.”



**Michael Galvan**  
Senior mathematics major

## Need more parking lots

“Right now, it would be the parking. There’s [a parking lot] over there where you have to pay. I don’t like that. [Campus could] buy more lots for students; there is plenty of space to buy.



**Alejandro Mendoza**  
Sophomore biology major

## Confused with payments

“Payments, [UTB’s system], isn’t really working right now. I’m just trying to wing it to see if I can make a payment. I’m returning from suspension, so I’m supposed to be paying 25 percent and they’re telling me I have to pay 50 percent, so now I’m trying to wing it to see if I could make a payment.”



**Jacob Flores**  
Sophomore sociology major

–Compiled by Marlane Ashley Rodriguez  
–Photos by Christopher Peña

Do you have beef? If so, contact Collegian Reporter Marlane Ashley Rodriguez at 882-5143.

# Letters TO THE EDITOR

### Policy

Letters to the editor must include the name, classification and phone number of the author or the letter cannot be published. Opinions expressed in *The Collegian* are those of writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Collegian* or UTB/TSC administrators. The editor reserves the right to edit the letters. Send your letters to [collegian@utb.edu](mailto:collegian@utb.edu).

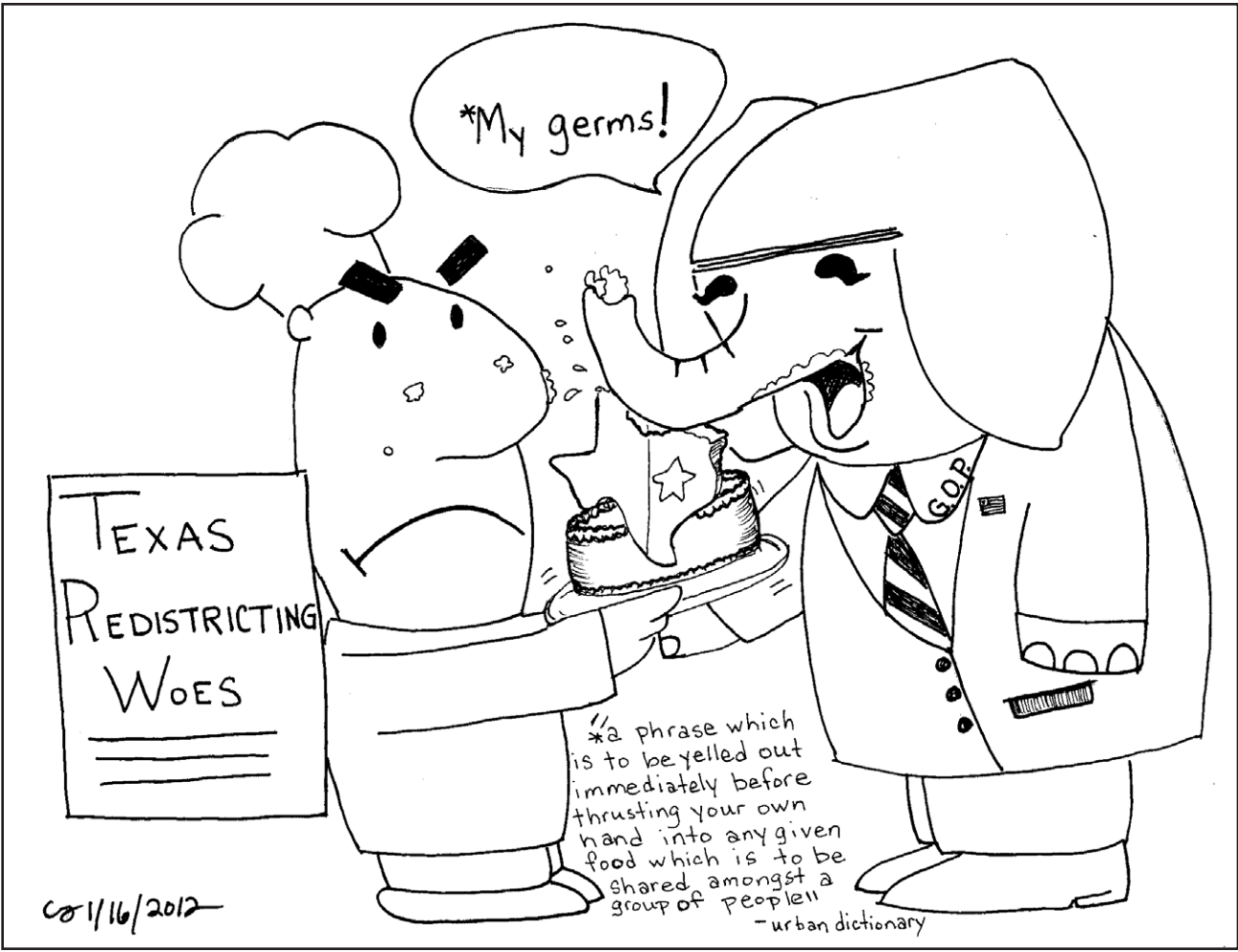
## R-E-S-P-E-C-T, find out what ...

[Late last semester], a group of us, student employees, were wrongfully scolded by a professor who spoke to us in a scornful manner due to a mistaken location (unbeknownst to us) we were working at. And instead of asking us to leave the room in a courteous manner, we were shooed away as if we were disgusting flies.

Although I know we must always respect faculty members, I believe students deserve the same treatment from everybody on campus no matter what position they hold. Furthermore, after learning who this faculty member is (this person is well-respected with many years on campus), I was horrified.

Nevertheless, setting aside status and position, we are all human beings and should always be unconditionally treated with respect and fairness.

**Anais Sullivan**  
Senior



# We’re the pigs

By Rene Cardona Jr.  
COLLEGIAN EDITOR

I sat on a couch, sinking into the cracks of the pleather cushions, as did friends around me while I watched an iPad intently. As my mind wrapped itself to watch a video, I thought of a wild pig.

“I read about catching a wild pig today,” I said to anybody who cared to listen. “You place a corn cob in the



middle of a field, away from pigs. You do this every day for several weeks until they are used to coming for the free meal. After a few weeks, place the side of a fence a few feet away from the corn. After they get used to the fence being there, put up the second side. Repeat until the final wall is up and watch the pig rest contently in the cage.”

I drew out some chuckles from the guys who were on their phones and a blank stare from my friend sitting next to me.

It didn’t matter if anyone listened, though. I had discovered the new Vevo app. You know, it’s the company whose name is plastered all over the YouTube videos that feature the singles from the likes of Rihanna, Foster the People, LMFAO, etc.

The Vevo app is well-developed. You can pinch the screen to zoom out, while watching the video, to peruse other pieces of media. Also, while watching, say, The Black Eyed Peas’ “My Humps” you get trivia about Madonna or Bieber. But, come on: When you want to watch a video, you don’t want any bull bothering you. My friend agreed.

“HA, YOU NEVER SAW THE FOURTH SIDE PUT UP, HUH?”

Rene Cardona Jr.  
Collegian Editor

It was bad enough Facebook had to get involved, making me sign in to tell me my data was being accessed by Vevo. The blue “allow” button never looked so good.

Rihanna’s “We Found Love” eventually played to remind me that Calvin Harris can refine any twisted S&M routine--and make tons of waves with more than 105 million views—right, Rih-Rih?

More videos were played, then came up the video by the shirtless Adam Levine, from that band or whatever. More trivia came up, and it was about Lady Gaga--my friend’s favorite.

“I guess I can get used to this,” she said. I chuckled.

“Ha, you never saw the fourth side put up, huh?” I smiled up at her and got a blank stare, wide eyes, a smile and she turned her head to the video. Could I blame her? Hell, no. Levine was bustin’ moves like Mick Jagger.

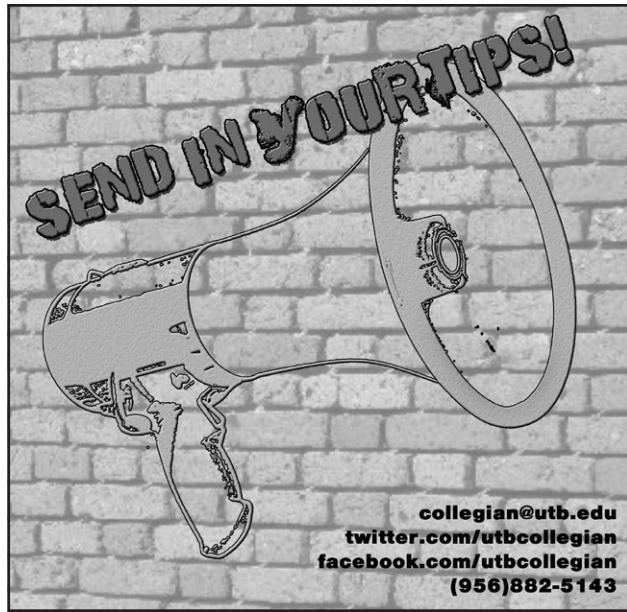
I get on my phone to check my Facebook and I see that Vevo joins the one-sentence rants about this or that, Spotify playlists and party photos with faceless booze bottles on your Facebook Timeline. The videos you stream become part of your social network, I’m guessing, to help advertisers zero in on you and your likes and media consumption.

“So it’s more like a net instead of a fence,” I said out loud--again, for anyone who cared to listen. (The room was silent, except for some noise from an iPhone in the room.)

Someone muddled, “What?”--or maybe I imagined it.

“It’s all being meshed, like a net: the apps, devices and our brains!”

# YOUR LETTER GOES HERE.





# Course evaluaion response rate growing with new software

By Samantha Ruiz  
THE COLLEGIAN

The university experienced a 20 percent increase in response rates for end-of-course evaluations last fall after buying new software, officials said.

Blanca Bauer, executive director of Institutional Research, Planning and Effectiveness, said the number of submissions in the end-of-course evaluations grew to an overall of 57 percent.

A total of 52,049 evaluations were sent out last semester and 29,590 responses were received, according to Lourdes Lopez, coordinator of Research, Institutional Research, Planning and Effectiveness.

In Spring 2011, the department sent 45,031 evaluations and 17,744 responses were received for a 39 percent rate of response, according to Lopez.

Bauer said there were some glitches that prevented them from being able to withhold grades if students did not submit their evaluations, as well as other things.

“The greatest issues we had with implementing the process with the new vendor had to do with the fact that we had to get it set up and programmed so quickly,” Bauer said. “Generally eXplorance, the company that we used, takes about four months to do all the set-ups and programming with a new institution to prepare for the end-of-course evaluations, but because we only got approval to work with the vendor in September and then we went through the purchasing process. We didn’t formally start working with the company to proceed with the technical issues and setting up the deployment of the evaluations until the end of

October.”

She said when the Academic Senate decided that grades would be withheld if students did not submit their evaluations, they began to work with the vendor to get the technology working. But because of time, the company was unable to get the software working for the grade block.

Grades were not withheld last semester. Instead, Bauer said, a drawing for three iPads will be conducted during this semester’s Welcome Week. She said students who completed all their evaluations were sent an email stating that they will be placed in the drawing.

Bauer said this semester, students will also be able to access their course evaluations through Blackboard. She said the time crunch also prevented them from having the technology available.

Other issues the university had to deal with were students not receiving the email due to having wrong contact information on the server, their email accounts did not accept the email and wrong professors were listed for courses.

“We have wrong and outdated emails for students,” Bauer said. “We got some messages from students saying I didn’t receive an email for my evaluations. Basically, we work with whatever is in the data system, so if they’re using a new email address or it’s wrong or outdated ... and that’s one that we really need to work with students to understand how important it is that we have their right email.”

Bauer said this takes cooperation on the students’ behalf to make sure to update their information with the university.

She said some email account servers such as Yahoo! rejected the email and that the university is working to get that issue

resolved with the vendor and with Academic Affairs to assure that the right professors are listed.

Overall, Bauer believes the new software was a success.

“I feel that the efficiency has increased tremendously,” Bauer said. “Faculty got the results from the students’ evaluations within a week after finals.”

Previously, when evaluations were on paper, it took months to get the results, she said.

The faculty even has the opportunity to see their scores in a graph and have it compared with the scores of others in the department, Bauer said.

“The company has been so responsive and so excellent in serving us that I have nothing but praise for their staff, for the knowledge that they have in working with us, [and] for their patience, they were very attentive,” Bauer said. “... We were on the phone with them almost every single day through the process, and I think we have a few glitches to work out and I think that we need to work with students and talk to them and faculty more to see what we can do, if it’s not blocking grades, what can we do if we want to get the response rates up in the 90s.”

Bauer said the department will meet with the Student Government Association and have focus groups next month. Discussions will be held to decide whether to block grades this semester or other measures to get students to submit evaluations.

Students who want to provide more feedback on the course evaluations or have questions may contact Bauer at blanca.bauer@utb.edu or send their suggestions to courseevaluations@utb.edu.

# New nano program sought for Fall 2012

By Joe Molina  
THE COLLEGIAN

UT-Brownsville plans to offer a certificate program in nanoscience in Fall 2012, officials say.

Engineering and Physics Department Associate Professor Karen Martirosyan’s proposal includes seven new upper-level courses.

Scholarships would be offered to undergraduate physics, chemistry, engineering and biology students to link their degrees with the nano concentration program. The scholarships would be funded by a \$200,000 grant from the National Science Foundation.

Martirosyan hopes the program will persuade students to continue their studies and pursue a graduate degree at UTB.

“This option will prepare our students to the emerging market of nanotechnology research and industry by providing basic scientific and research skills,” he said.

Nanoscale engineering has quickly developed a demand for nanoscience professionals in

the electrical and pharmacology industries. These particularly nano-biased industries, Martirosyan said, are the better career opportunities for nano-concentrated students.

The students who enroll in the 12-credit-hour certificate program will become familiar with such cutting-edge technology as Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) and Physical Properties Measurement System (PPMS).

Also, Martirosyan’s collaboration with the University of Houston will enable select students to utilize Houston’s \$20 million “clean room” facility for sample imaging.

“This program is designed to address the need for an interdisciplinary undergraduate education at UTB that extends beyond the traditional disciplines and skills that are taught within any existing College of Science, Math and Technology department,” he said. “I believe it would attract ... students in our region, from all sides of the region, and that is the success.”

The certificate program’s courses are introduction to nanoscience, engineering of nanomaterials, nanofabrication and nanoelectronics, introduction to bio-nanotechnology, environmental nanotechnology, nano optics and a capstone design course.

Martirosyan submitted the new program proposal to the university’s Curriculum Committee on Nov. 1.

Before the program begins it must receive institutional and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approval. Martirosyan said about 28 students are expected aboard the program for Fall 2012.

Interested students may contact Martirosyan at karen.martirosyan@utb.edu to discuss what course path would best fit their degree plan and possibly enter the candidacy for a scholarship.

The NSF’s grant funds will mostly be utilized for student scholarships and classroom equipment for the next two years.



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## IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE APRIL 3, 2012 PRIMARY ELECTION

**FEB. 3: FIRST DAY TO APPLY FOR BALLOT BY MAIL**  
(DOES NOT APPLY TO FPCA)

**MARCH 5: LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE**

**MARCH 19: FIRST DAY OF EARLY VOTING**

**MARCH 27: LAST DAY TO APPLY FOR BALLOT BY MAIL**  
(RECEIVED, NOT POSTMARKED)

**MARCH 30: LAST DAY OF EARLY VOTING**

**APRIL 3: PRIMARY ELECTION**

For more information, call the Cameron County Elections and Voter Registration Department at 544-0809 or visit the office at 954 E. Harrison St. in Brownsville.

HOURS OF OPERATION ARE 8 A.M. TO 5 P.M. MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY.



## TUITION

Continued from Page 1

or nonresident) student taking 12 hours would pay an additional \$63.60 in FY 2013 and \$65.28 in FY 2014, according to updated figures provided by Granja.

State residents should expect to pay \$155.95 per semester credit hour in FY 2013 and \$161.39 per hour in FY 2014 in tuition, excluding mandatory fees. Tuition rates for nonresident and foreign students are not yet available as they are set by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and independent from UTB's proposal process.

As per directives issued by the UT System, institutions cannot raise tuition and fees more than 2.6 percent and any increases must be tied to efforts that improve retention and/or graduation rates.

The revenue generated from the tuition increases, which students will see beginning in Fall 2012, will be used to improve retention through structured peer mentoring, supplemental instruction and tutoring, early alert mechanisms, block scheduling and first-year seminar courses, the proposal states.

According to research done by the university, structured peer mentoring--like that offered by the federally funded grant program Title V, which aims to provide support to students in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics--led to higher retention rates.

"The mentored students were retained at 78 percent as compared to our overall first-time freshmen retention rate of 55 percent," the proposal states. "However, lack of funding has limited the use of peer mentors at UTB."

Tuition increases will thus allow UTB to add at least 25 new mentors, according to the proposal.

More funding will also allow faculty to fully utilize Blackboard's early alert functions to identify struggling students, who will then be directed to the proper channels to increase their chances of

academic success.

UTB would also like to increase its course offerings to accommodate students who have rigid work schedules and family obligations.

"Time to graduation is lengthy due to our inability to schedule enough courses for students to complete program requirements during their preferred time slot," the proposal states. "As a result, the university is implementing block scheduling that will provide three major time slots during the morning, late afternoon and evening hours. Additional dollars will be required to ensure that adequate faculty members are available to deliver instruction in the three time slots."

As for fees, UTB Provost Alan Artibise assured students would not see an increase in fees. But because of the separation of UTB and TSC, the university is set to lose about 49 percent of students, resulting in less fee-generated revenue.

"There are quite a few resources that are completely funded through student fees, so if we don't have the money we can't do them," Artibise said.

Fees are the only source of funding for the Athletics Department, so its budget will be cut by nearly half after separation. To compensate for the loss, the baseball team will be cut at the end of Spring 2012, and the athletic fee will be increased in the coming biennium from \$84 to \$87.19 for students taking 12 semester credit hours. Students taking 15 hours will see an increase from \$105 to \$109, according to the proposal.

To offset the increase in the athletics fee, the student recreation fee, which is not contingent on credit hours, will be reduced from \$79 to \$75.

The UT System board of regents will meet sometime in March, although a date has not been agreed upon, said Megan Kareithi, an administrative associate with the UT System, to consider the tuition proposals in which the presidents from all UT institutions will be present to answer any questions the regents may have.

## DIPLOMA

Continued from Page 1

ceremony from the Cardenas Hall South Lawn to Jacob Brown Auditorium. Three separate ceremonies were held.

Although the venue is the largest in all of Brownsville, throngs of people composed of graduates' relatives waited in lines and in a massive bulk outside the doors of Jacob Brown Auditorium, hoping to get seating during the last ceremony of the day.

The overflow, however, saw the ceremony streamed online in the Arts Center and Garza Gym.

The experience wasn't for naught. An after-event review went on last week in which campus officials discussed the

commencement.

"We learned an important lesson," Artibise said. "We put together a plan B late in the day. Because in the history of the institution, this is only the second time we've ever had to do it. ... The lesson we learned is, for all ceremonies moving forward, there will be a well-thought-through plan B in place all the time--not a week before or three days before."

"I think to the credit of all our staff, particularly given the timeframe we had, I think they did a superb job under the circumstances. It was a miserable day and things worked given those conditions quite well, but we could have done better and we will in the future do better."

# U.S. hits the brakes on health care spending

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON--Is health-care relief finally in sight?

Health spending stabilized as a share of the nation's economy in 2010 after two back-to-back years of historically low growth, the government reported last week.

Experts debated whether it's a fleeting consequence of the sluggish economy, or a real sign that cost controls by private employers and government at all levels are starting to work.

The answers will be vital for Medicare's sustainability, as well as for workplace coverage.

U.S. health care spending grew by 3.9 percent in 2010, reaching \$2.6 trillion, according to the report by the Health and Human Services Department.

That's an average of \$8,402 per person--far more than any other economically advanced country.

Still, the increases for 2010 and 2009 were the lowest measured in 51 years. And health care as a share of the economy leveled off at 17.9 percent, the first time in a decade there's been no growth.

The main reason for the slowdown was that Americans were more frugal in their use of health care, from postponing elective surgery to using generic drugs and thinking twice about that late-night visit to the emergency room.

"Although medical goods and services are generally viewed as necessities, the latest recession has had a dramatic effect on their utilization," said the report published Jan. 9 in the journal Health Affairs. "Though the recession officially ended in 2009, its impact on the health-care sector appears to have continued into 2010."

Independent economists issued conflicting assessments.

"I think it could signal

slower growth in the future," said Ken Thorpe, professor of health policy at Emory University in Atlanta. "Any discussion about reducing the deficit is going to focus on how we reduce the growth in health-care costs. And employers are adopting more effective tools to keep putting downward pressure on health-care cost increases."

But his counterpart Len Nichols at George Mason University in Virginia said people are getting less medical care because too many have lost jobs and insurance, and they just can't afford to pay.

"The slowdown is mostly due to postponement of care, due to anticipated inability to pay," Nichols said. If he's right, that could mean costs will spike once the economy is on solid footing.

The report provided relief for a jittery White House facing a 2012 re-election campaign in which President Obama's health care overhaul is a top target for Republicans.

The nonpartisan number crunchers at HHS found that the health care law barely contributed to cost increases in 2010--just one-tenth of 1 percentage point. Major provisions expanding coverage to more than 30 million uninsured don't take effect until 2014, well after the presidential election.

The federal government's share of the total health care tab--another issue in this year's political debate--grew to 29 percent in 2010, up from 23 percent as recently as 2007. Counting state and local spending, the overall government share stood at 45 percent of the total.

Medicare spending grew by 5 percent in 2010. That was slower growth than in 2009, due mainly to reductions in what the government paid private Medicare Advantage insurance plans. Medicaid spending increased by 7.2 percent, less than the 2009

rate because of fewer people covered by the program.

However, the main finding of the report was a continued slowdown in the use of services across major health-care categories, one of its authors termed "dramatic." Higher copayments for those with private insurance are part of the reason.

Hospital care, which accounts for just over 30 percent of what Americans spend, grew more slowly because of a decline in a key measure of inpatient admissions, and slower growth in emergency room visits, outpatient appointments, and outpatient surgery.

Spending on doctor visits and related care--about 20 percent of the total--grew at a historically low rate of 2.5 percent, due to an overall drop in visits and a milder 2010 flu season. But spending on dental care increased faster than in 2009.

Prescription drugs, about 10 percent of overall spending, also saw a slower increase--just 1.2 percent in 2010. That was not only due to the continuing shift to generic drugs, but also slower growth in the overall volume of medications that Americans took.

Will less health care hurt consumers?

That remains to be seen, but current evidence suggests it won't. Americans are no healthier than their counterparts in other developed countries, which spend far less. And research suggests that as much as 30 percent of tests and treatments for U.S. patients may be of little or no benefit.

The HHS experts refused to speculate about the implications of the slowdown, although their report stressed the connection to a weak economy. More may be known by the summer, when another team in the same HHS unit will update projections for future health care spending.

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SUNDAY ALABAMA/AP PHOTO

People line up Wednesday to buy fuel at a government petrol station on the third day of a nationwide strike following the removal of a fuel subsidy in Lagos, Nigeria.

# Union threatens oil production over Nigeria strike

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAGOS, Nigeria--While a growing nationwide strike and protests have already paralyzed daily life in Nigeria, the beating heart of its economy--crude oil--keeps pumping.

Now a powerful union threatened to shut down all oil and natural gas production Sunday in a nation that remains crucial to U.S. energy supplies. The union's ability to enforce the shutdown across the swamps of Nigeria's southern delta to massive offshore oil fields remains in question, though last Thursday's threat of a strike could sway global oil prices as traders worldwide remain concerned about supply.

Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation with more than 160 million people, has been paralyzed by a national strike that began Jan. 9 after the country's government abandoned subsidies that kept gasoline prices lower for consumers. Overnight, prices at the pump more than doubled, from \$1.70 per gallon (45 cents per liter) to at least \$3.50 per gallon (94 cents per liter). The cost of food

and transportation also doubled.

Popular anger over losing one of the few benefits average Nigerians see from being an oil-rich nation, as well as disgust over government corruption, has led to demonstrations nationwide and related violence that has killed at least 12 people.

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria, which represents about 20,000 workers, announced last Thursday it would "be forced to go ahead and apply the bitter option of ordering the systematic shutting down of oil and gas production" if the government refused to reinstate the gas subsidies. Union president Babatunde Ogun said if fields are shut down, it could take "six months or one year" to restart them.

"We ... believe that if everything comes to a standstill, the government will budge," Ogun told journalists in Lagos.

Ogun also said the natural gas shutdown would turn off the nation's power grid, which is already in shambles.

The oil industry so far hasn't felt the effects of the

national strike. Many of its operations are automated, both for efficiency and to avoid having staff work in the Niger Delta's maze of creeks, where criminal gangs and militants target workers for high-dollar kidnappings.

Foreign companies also run large offshore fields, far from the streets and chaos of growing demonstrations across the country. Shipments from offshore platforms move immediately to market.

When pressed about how the union could affect the automated parts of the industry, Ogun did not offer an answer.

Most oil firms, including the dominant Royal Dutch Shell PLC, say they are monitoring the situation. Other companies with subsidiaries working in Nigeria include Chevron Corp., Exxon Mobil Corp., Italy's Eni SpA and French firm Total SA, which operate in tandem with the state-run Nigerian National Petroleum Corp.

Levi Ajuonoma, a spokesman for the state-run firm, said it had not adjusted its production and shipping forecasts over the strike. It would take time for the nation to feel the impact of the strike, as oil

and natural gas cargoes go out months ahead, meaning that supply would be available for the U.S.

However, it still could affect futures prices of oil on stock markets--potentially raising the cost of gasoline for the consumer. Global oil prices rose when militants began several years of attacks on oil companies and crude oil pipelines in 2006.

Benchmark oil prices rose by \$1.03 to \$101.90 per barrel last Thursday in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Prices rose on concerns of global supplies.

Nigeria is the fifth-largest oil exporter to the United States, and losing those supplies would force American refineries to replace 630,000 barrels of crude per day.

"As long as government is selling crude ... the impact to them will not be that significant," University of Ibadan economics professor Adeola Adenikinju said. "The fiscal nerve center of the economy has not really been touched."

The growing protests and attacks from a radical Islamist sect also put additional strain on a government already facing popular dissent following the removal of the fuel subsidies. Analysts warn that could raise the political risk in a nation with a young democracy and a history of military rulers.

"The subsidy issue provokes such strong emotions because it is viewed as one of the few benefits that Nigerians receive from living in an oil-producing nation," Barclays Capital said. "If the protests continue or gain momentum, they will pose a major challenge to the Jonathan government and potentially exhaust the capacity of an administration already facing a sustained security threat."

# Candidates woo DeMint as he stays on sidelines



CLIFF OWEN/AP PHOTO

Vice President Joe Biden, right, administers a ceremonial Senate oath to Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C. on Wednesday, while his wife Debbie holds a Bible on Capitol Hill in Washington.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA, S.C.-- In the 2012 Republican nominating contest, Sen. Jim DeMint is like the pretty girl all the boys want to take to the prom. Nearly every GOP presidential candidate has come a-courting the South Carolina Republican ahead of his state's Jan. 21 primary.

A dean of the influential and well-funded tea party movement, DeMint has made it clear he's sitting this one out.

The senator suggests he's not feeling that special attraction to any of the candidates, whether it be front-runner Mitt Romney or one of his rivals, or feeling peer pressure to pair up for the big dance. Instead, he has his eye on another class of candidate entirely--those aiming to win enough Senate seats to flip the chamber from Democratic to Republican control.

"My priority is the Senate," DeMint said last week in an interview, adding that it doesn't matter who is elected president if Republicans don't get a Senate majority. He's again turning to his political action committee, Senate Conservatives Fund, to help candidates he wants to see elected to the Senate.

"I have the ability to raise \$10 [million] or \$15 million to elect some senators and that's how I think I can help the next president. So that's what I want to do," he said. "As soon as I get involved with one [presidential] candidate, I've got 80 percent of my supporters mad at me."

Still, for all of DeMint's efforts not to get dragged into the GOP presidential race, he waded into it last Tuesday with a prediction.

"I think Romney's going to win here," DeMint, 60, told South Carolina conservative radio host Mark Levin.

Whether coy or genuine, DeMint's demurral hasn't discouraged his pursuers as the Republican political machinery rumbles south from New Hampshire. South Carolina's famously nasty nomination contest has proved decisive in the past; the winner has become the GOP's

presidential nominee every time since 1980.

Romney faces challenges from Texas Rep. Ron Paul, former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, former Sen. Rick Santorum and Texas Gov. Rick Perry. Nearly every one of them has wooed DeMint.

A nod from the former ad executive could mean millions of dollars in campaign donations. It also could help send an underdog to Washington, as DeMint's endorsement did in 2010 for Senators Marco Rubio of Florida and Rand Paul of Kentucky.

Elected to the Senate in 2004, he made no friends in the collegial chamber when he scolded fellow Republicans for the party's dismal performance in the 2008 elections.

Two years later, he marshaled enough money to step past more senior Republicans and support his preferred candidates for Senate. Paul and Rubio were DeMint's success stories. Other DeMint candidates, such as Delaware's Christine O'Donnell, defeated the establishment's choice in the Republican primary but lost the general election.

Some in the GOP complained that while DeMint's activities may have won like-minded conservatives several seats in Congress, they also enabled Democrats to keep some vulnerable seats and maintain their majority.

This year, DeMint says he has no interest in playing kingmaker in the presidential race.

"DeMint has been down the presidential endorsement road before. In 2008, he charged into the race by endorsing Romney, a notable move for someone already known as one of the Senate's staunchest conservatives. Romney lost the nomination to Sen. John McCain.

DeMint says he expects his network of wealthy and influential South Carolina donors to be more vocal during the week.

"A lot of them want to get involved," he said. "I think you'll see some support Mitt and some Newt and some Perry. I'm certainly not giving them directions."

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# MARKETING: University pumps out new image as separation continues

Continued from Page 1

In an effort to promote UTB as a new and “vibrant singularity,” the campus community must see these changes as an evolution, according to Linder.

“We are becoming an autonomous institution as the [UTB/TSC partnership] starts to unravel,” she said. “We are starting to market UT-Brownsville as a brand and it’s just a natural transition.”

The vice president said the students’ and staff’s response to the new color motif has been “overwhelmingly positive.”

While most of the students and faculty would

gladly accept the influence of UT’s style branding over the university logo, others, like senior Frank Orozco, are not too happy with our school’s resemblance to UT-Austin.

“I wish it could have been more original because there are other schools within the UT System that are not exactly like ... UT-Austin and since they do want to give [UTB] a better image, well, they are not starting the right way,” Orozco said.

Despite his disillusion over UTB’s new branding, Orozco did admit that the close resemblance to the UT System would benefit the university’s reputation in Brownsville.

“People will not only

be, ‘Well, it’s just a public community college,’ because it’s never been a community college,” he said. “It’s always been a university, but now they will really see a change and they will see ... it’s going to be quite challenging to get into a UT school.”

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Alan Artibise said preliminary discussions in the 1980s included “really forward-looking people in the community” who said, “Wouldn’t it be great if we could get a UT System university in Brownsville?”

“I think the public and the community should be very excited about the possibilities as we move to our next phase ... and

become a fully participating member of the UT System,” Artibise said. “It’s not that we weren’t a member of the system but we were always different. There is no doubt now that we are a full member of that system.”

He said UTB’s makeover doesn’t necessarily stop at the colors.

“We are moving away from the scorpion, too; we shall see,” he said. “That process will pick up again in the next month and students and members of the public will have all kinds of opportunities to comment [on a new mascot]. Just to be clear, it’s not a popularity contest. There is not going to be a vote, but we want to listen to everyone before a

decision is made.”

The provost said the scorpion is a thing of the past and that students want to move on with a new mascot for the redesigned UTB 2.0.

Besides the new signage that outlines the Education and Business Complex and the University Boulevard Library, recent developments in student services, too, prove how serious UTB is taking on the task of attracting a more diversified student population.

A second bus service has been added to the campus this semester. Valley Metro Route 45 will transport students from such cities as San Benito,

Los Fresnos and Harlingen. Valley Metro joins Scorpion Metro, which was begun in Spring 2011 and is part of the Brownsville Urban System.

“We ... have had a localized student body base, predominantly coming from Brownsville, and we want to become a regional university and extend all the way up,” Linder said.

Changes in the weekly “Announcements” email header, light pole banners and Blackboard’s new MyUTB logo are all indicators of UTB’s separation from Texas Southmost College.



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MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>16</b> MLK DAY OF SERVICE 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dean Porter Park	<b>17</b> FIRST CLASS DAY  INFORMATION STATIONS 9 a.m. to noon and 4-7 p.m. Student Union, EDBC Courtyard, Camille Lightner Courtyard, MRC Endowment Courtyard	<b>18</b> SU GAME ROOM PROGRAM Noon to 2 p.m.  TARDEADA 5-7:30 p.m. EDBC Courtyard  INFORMATION STATIONS 9 a.m. to noon and 4-7 p.m. Student Union, EDBC Courtyard, Camille Lightner Courtyard, MRC Endowment Courtyard	<b>19</b> STUDENT INVOLVEMENT FAIR 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Student Union Lawn	<b>20</b> HEALTH CARNIVAL 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cortez Hall  VOLLEYBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP CELEBRATION 5-6 p.m. Garza Gym  ALUMNI BASEBALL GAME 6-8:30 p.m. Baseball Field  GREEK BALL 6-11 p.m. Student Union, El Gran Sal3n	<b>21</b>
<b>23</b> PUT YOUR SPIRIT ON Noon to 1 p.m. Barnes & Noble Bookstore	<b>24</b> PENGUIN PLUNGE 6-9 p.m. REK Center	<b>25</b> PEP RALLY FOR BASEBALL AND GOLF Noon to 1 p.m. Student Union Lawn  SU GAME ROOM PROGRAM Noon to 2 p.m.  JOIN A CLUB DAY 5-7 p.m. REK Center	<b>26</b> STD'S/HIV/AIDS EVENT 1-5 p.m. Calvary lawn  BASEBALL GAME OPENER Live music by Nestor AnDress 3:30-5:30 p.m.  BASEBALL GAME 6-8:30 p.m. Baseball Field	<b>27</b> Deadline to register a student organization for spring 2012  BASEBALL GAME 6-8:30 p.m. Baseball Field	<b>28</b> BASEBALL GAMES 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Baseball Field

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24 @ 6 p.m.
- \* Wet Wednesdays:  
Date: Jan. 25 - May 2

INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

- \* California Marathon:  
Date: Jan. 17 - May 7
- \* All in good time:  
Date: Jan. 17 - May 7

CLASSES BEGIN 1/17/2011		
MONDAY		
Open Flow Yoga	10 a.m. - 11 a.m.	REK 1.532
ZUMBA	6 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.	REK 1.532
Trim-N-Tone	7 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.	REK 1.202
ZUMBA	8 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.	REK 1.532
TUESDAY		
Boot Camp	11 a.m. - 12 p.m.	REK Court 2
Open Flow Yoga	2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	REK 1.532
InSWAMity-X	6 p.m. - 7 p.m.	REK Pool
Power Circuit	7 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.	REK 1.202
WEDNESDAY		
Open Flow Yoga	10 a.m. - 11 a.m.	REK 1.532
AquaFit	1:15 p.m. - 2 p.m.	REK Pool
ZUMBA	7 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.	REK 1.532
Trim-N-Tone	8 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.	REK 1.532
ZUMBA	9 p.m. - 9:45 p.m.	REK 1.532
THURSDAY		
Boot Camp	11 a.m. - 12 p.m.	REK Court 2
Open Flow Yoga	5 p.m. - 6 p.m.	REK 1.532
Drylands	6 p.m. - 7 p.m.	REK Pool
Power Circuit	7 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.	REK 1.202
FRIDAY		
Work the Circuit	11 a.m. - 12 p.m.	REK 1.20
ZUMBA	7 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.	REK 1.532

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  - \* 7-ON-7 FLAG FOOTBALL  
TOURNAMENT  
Men's, Women's & Co-Ed  
Registration: Jan. 23 - Feb. 1  
Game Day: Friday, Feb. 3 @ 2 p.m.
  - \* 5-ON-5 BASKETBALL LEAGUE  
Men's, Women's & Co-Ed  
Registration: Jan. 23 - Feb. 1  
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# SUICIDE PREVENTION IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

"I don't care. I don't really care about anything anymore." Those red-flag words, even if they don't explicitly say "suicide," can be a troubled student's only call for help. Fortunately, college campuses are better prepared than ever to provide assistance to students who are overwhelmed, depressed, and at risk for suicide.

Our University received funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for the implementation of a suicide prevention program that can provide skills and referral information to students, staff and faculty in assisting those who might be experiencing signs and/or symptoms of suicide. The funding for the program is the result of the advocacy efforts of U.S. Senator Gordon Smith (D-OR) and the American Psychological Association with Congress to approve the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act that could enable college campuses to implement suicide prevention programs. The impetus for the legislation is based on Senator Gordon Smith's family tragedy. His son, Garrett Lee Smith, died of suicide the day before his twenty-second birthday. Since then, Senator Smith has supported bipartisan legislation in Garrett's memory to help other families and communities stop suicide among youth.

Suicide is the third leading cause of death among young people ages 18 to 25, according to 2004 data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. SAMHSA's 2006 National Survey on Drug Use and Health indicates that suicide is also strongly associated with emotional distress, such as depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. Among young people between the ages of 18 and 22, the rate of serious emotional disorders is 17.8 percent for those enrolled in college; and 19.0 percent for others in the general population. These statistics demonstrate that suicide is a problem and that prevention programs must be implemented.

Our UTB program will offer awareness programming to bring attention to the problem and to promote the SAMHSA's National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-TALK).

When thinking about suicide, or when a loved one may be in danger of self-harm or of harming someone else, please remember that help is available.

If you need immediate help, please reach out to any of the following resources:

Student Health Services 956-882-3896

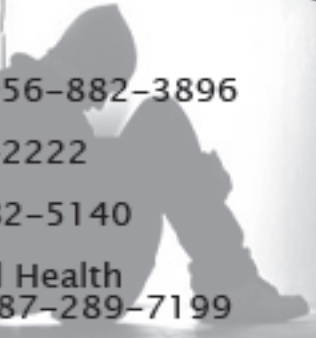
Campus Police 956-882-2222

Dean of Students 956-882-5140

Tropical Texas Behavioral Health (24-hour crisis line) 1-887-289-7199

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THE COLLEGIAN

The Collegian is the multimedia student newspaper serving the University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College. The newspaper is widely distributed on campus and is an award-winning member of the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association.

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The University of Texas at Brownsville

Weekly What's UP

Want your event to be featured? Submit event information one week in advance, before 5 p.m. Tuesday to collegian@utb.edu. First come first serve, but student organization events are given preference.

--Compiled by Michelle Serrano

MLK DAY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**UT LAW SCHOOL**  
Students interested in applying to the **University of Texas at Austin School of Law** are encouraged to attend an information session from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Wednesday in the Education and Business Complex’s Salon Cassia. For more information, call **Carlo Tamayo**, director of the UTB Office of Admissions and Recruiting, at 882-8295.

**ART SHOW**  
The **Brownsville Museum of Fine Art**, 660 Ringgold St., will host the **41st International Art Show** at 6 p.m. Wednesday. The exhibit will showcase artwork in all mediums, including oil, pastels and sculptures. RSVP is required for Wednesday evening’s attendance. Artwork will be on display during regular museum hours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., beginning Thursday through Feb. 17. For more information, call the BMFA at 542-0941.

**STUDENT INVOLVEMENT FAIR**  
The **Office of Student Life** will host a **Student Involvement Fair** from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday on the Student Union lawn. All registered student organizations and departments are invited to attend. For more information, contact the Office of Student Life at 882-5138.

**RUN-FOR-THE-YOUTH**  
**Communities in Schools of Cameron County** will host a 5K race from 8 to 10 a.m. Saturday at **Resaca De La Palma State Park**, 1000 New Carmen Ave. in Brownsville. For more information on registration and entrance fees, call **Anyer Tatis** at 543-7239.

**TAILGATE PARTY**  
The **Office of Student Life** will host a Scorpion Baseball Opening Day tailgating event at 3:30 p.m. Jan. 26 at Scorpion Field. There will be live music by **Nestor AnDress**, along with games and complimentary refreshments. Student organizations and departments are encouraged to attend and support the **UTB/TSC Baseball Team**. There will be a \$100 prize awarded to the most spirited student organization. For more information, call the Office of Student Life at 882-5138.

**FACULTY WRITING CLUB**  
Faculty members are invited to attend a monthly faculty writing club from 9:30 a.m. to noon beginning Jan. 28 in University Boulevard Library 2.206. The club is hosted by Associate Professor **Louis Falk** and Center for Teaching and Learning Director **Betsy Price** to provide assistance with beginning and maintaining scholarly writing activities. Faculty writing clubs at other universities have assisted faculty to set scholarship goals, brainstorm how to overcome obstacles, provide editing and relay best practices for how to get published. For more information, go to utb.edu/vpaa/ctl/pages/publishingandflourishing.aspx.

**BONGO BALL**  
The **Office of Student Life** and **Campus Recreation** present “**Bongo Ball Mania**” Feb.1 from 3:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the REK Center. Players hide between, under and behind obstacles as they advance in the battlefield of flying Nerf balls to capture the flag and win the game. For more information, call the Office of Student Life at 882-5138 or Campus Recreation at 882-5967.

**‘MIRACLE’ PREMIERE**  
The world premiere of the docudrama “**Miracle at Donna**” will take place at 8 p.m. Feb. 2 in Hidalgo’s State Farm Arena. The film illustrates the true story of the 1961 football championship team of the **Donna High School Redskins** by director/producer **Frank Aragon**. For more information, visit miracleatdonnafilm.com.

**GUITAR CLASSES**  
Students interested in learning guitar or brushing up on their skills are encouraged to sign up for UTB guitar classes. Guitar I and II

The following are among the incidents reported to Campus Police between Nov.29 and Dec.20, 2011.

**Tuesday, Nov.29**  
**5:14 p.m.:** A man reported that one of his employees assaulted him in the International Technology, Education and Commerce Center. He reported that the worker was on the phone, then stood up and said “my African people.” He said he told the worker that such comments were not allowed and could offend other employees. The man began to argue with him so he asked him to step outside so they could discuss the situation. The employee became aggressive and the employer said he had no other choice but to fire him, at which point the employee pushed him on his shoulder. The employer asked him to stop and leave the area.

**Wednesday, Nov.30**  
**10:50 a.m.:** A faculty member and three female students reported that a male student was allegedly stalking students. They reported that they had him for a class. They stated that he would make desperate attempts to make contact with them by asking if he could hang out with them in the Gazebos area and by going into one of the students’ classes in Eidman Hall while it was in session to ask her if they could meet outside. The faculty member became worried about him when he began to call her by her first name and when she heard him say that he became obsessed with things. She told Campus Police that she would talk to him about his behavior. The case was forwarded to the Dean of Students Office.

**Thursday, Dec.1**  
**3:18 p.m.:** A student reported that during the month of November she was being followed by a man on and off campus. She said he first approached her earlier that month and got her name. Later that week, she got a friend request from him on Facebook, which she denied. On another occasion, she saw him waiting outside her class through a window in Cortez Hall. When she walked out of her class, he came up to her and asked why she ignored his friend request. During her jogging class, she was running by the Education and Business Complex and

noticed him on the other side of the street by Lot AB. She even had to leave the Starbucks Ruben M. Torres Boulevard with her sister because he had showed up there. Her sister said she had met him a few days before and he might have confused the two. It was discovered that the man has no affiliation with UTB/TSC.

**Friday, Dec.2**  
**9:12 a.m.:** A UTB/TSC faculty member reported that a student had been waiting for her in her office since 9 a.m. She said the day before she noticed him looking at her and when he saw that she noticed him he hid in the bushes. She said his behavior was odd and that he often interrupted class to ask strange questions. Another faculty member said he had an encounter with the student who waited after a play in the ITECC building to speak with the actors and ask them strange and personal questions, so he asked him to leave the area. He noticed the man waiting for the other faculty member outside her office at 8:50 a.m. that day. He was concerned with his behavior and advised the other professor to call Campus Police. The student was informed that if he had no other business in the building, he should leave.

**Saturday, Dec.3**  
**2:47 p.m.:** A student reported that items were being stolen from her dorm room in Casa Bella. The student said a movie, a blouse, food and dryer sheets have been stolen from her. She asked her roommates if they knew anything and they all denied having any information. She said that she has felt tension from her roommates and had stopped staying there for a while because of it. When she informed everyone that her box of dryer sheets was missing, they all said they did not know where it was. The next day all the dryer sheets were scattered across the living room area and the empty box was on the floor. She also said her roommate often leaves their bedroom door unlocked and she has also found the main door unlocked as well. A report of the incidents was forwarded to Residential Life and Housing.

will be offered this semester and are open to all majors. For more information, contact guitar instructor jonathan.dotson@utb.edu.

**STUDY IN BRAZIL**  
The **Office of Global Engagement** invites students to study cross-cultural psychology in São Paulo, Brazil, next summer (May 13-30). Requirements are that students must have a prerequisite in PSYCH 2301, which must be completed by Spring 2012. This opportunity is open to all majors. For more information, call the Office of Global Engagement’s **Jared Montoya** at 882-8955.

**ROTC INTERNSHIP**  
**UTB/TSC ROTC** invites sophomore, junior and grad students to apply for the summer **2012 Army ROTC Internship**. Students will receive an all-expense paid training at Fort Knox, Ky. The four-week course can earn students \$5,000 if they decide to contract with ROTC after the training. For more information, call the ROTC at 882-7630.

**SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY**  
The **Center for Civic Engagement** offers the **CCE Endowment Fund** scholarship to UTB/TSC students who meet the minimum requirements of undergraduate status, junior or senior status, a 3.0 or higher GPA and have demonstrated a commitment to service. Students will be awarded on a sliding scale of up to \$1,000 based on hours of service students can commit. For more information, call the Center for Civic Engagement at 882-4300.

**SCHOLARSHIP WEBSITE**  
**DegreeDirectory.org** offers scholarships to students pursuing an associate’s, bachelor’s, master’s or online degree. Awards range from \$500 to \$1,000. For information on other scholarship opportunities, visit utb.edu/em/fa/pages/latestscholarshipopportunities.aspx.

--Compiled by Michelle Serrano

--Compiled by Samantha Ruiz



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PUBLIC HEALTH PARTNERSHIP



CHRISTOPHER PEÑA/COLLEGIAN

Joseph McCormick, regional dean of the Brownsville campus of the University of Texas School of Public Health, and UT-Brownsville Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Alan Artibise sign the 4+1 Degree Joint Program in Public Health agreement on Jan. 6 in the Biomedical Research Building Courtyard. The program enables UTB students to earn a bachelor's degree in biology, psychology, kinesiology or exercise science and a master of public health in five years, according to a news release from the Office of News & Information. Students may apply for the program in the second semester of their junior year, according to agreement information.

TEXAS SHORTS

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

WISCONSIN GOVERNOR

AUSTIN--Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker told a conservative political forum Thursday that he hopes the changes he has overseen will help his state challenge Texas in attracting businesses. Walker triggered a firestorm last year when he introduced a bill that stripped most public workers of almost all their collective bargaining rights. About 50 protesters gathered outside the hotel where Walker spoke, many from unions holding signs supporting the recall effort. Walker told the enthusiastic audience that helping him fight a recall would have repercussions across the country. Walker described Wisconsin as a potential swing state in the 2012 presidential election and said supporting his fight against a recall election would help Republicans win the White House.

TRES AMIGAS PARTNERS

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.--A \$1.5 billion effort to link the nation's three major electricity grids is getting a boost from Japanese investors and a European company well versed in integrating power markets. The partnerships with Mitsui and Co. and the European Power Exchange will ensure access to a large talent pool and funding for the next three phases of development for the Tres Amigas SuperStation in eastern New Mexico, said Tres Amigas President and Chief Executive Phillip Harris. Harris has spent the last week meeting in Santa Fe with Mitsui officials about details of the project. Construction is set to begin this summer, and officials expect the transmission hub to be operational in 2015.

SUFFOCATION CASE

CONCORD, N.H.-- A Texas woman who suffocated her 6-year-old son in a New Hampshire motel room and left his body by a road in Maine was scheduled to be sentenced Friday to 45 years in prison. The mother of 42-year-old Julianne McCrery told the Associated Press her daughter has prepared a statement. Lu Rae McCrery, who visited her daughter in jail Wednesday, said she believes her daughter will read the statement rather than have someone else read it. Julianne McCreary pleaded guilty in November to kneeling atop Camden Hughes as he laid face-down on their motel room floor. She told investigators she covered his mouth with her hand as he flailed for several minutes.

VOTER ID

Texas has responded to a federal demand for supplemental data as the Justice Department considers whether to approve requiring Texans to provide photo identification before they can vote.

TSU NOW A RESEARCH UNIVERSITY

Texas State University has been added to the list of schools classified as emerging research universities in the state.

MEXICO VIOLENCE

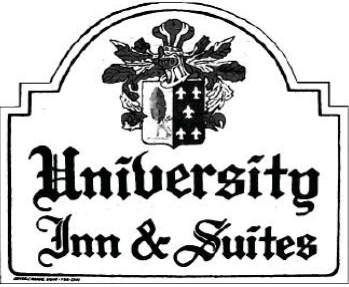
A man has been shot to death in the courtyard of an elementary school in the Mexican border city of Ciudad Juárez. It's an unusual event even for a city where children have enormous exposure to violence.

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I P I O X A U S E Y A E Y M T  
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By Valerie Nichole Secrease  
SPORTS EDITOR

Due to the financial consequences of the upcoming split of UTB and TSC, the university's Athletics Department will end the baseball program and start men's and women's cross country teams.

Todd Lowery, the University of Texas at Brownsville's athletics director, said it came down to a matter of budget. Officials are expecting a 49 percent drop in student enrollment after the institutions split and about a 40 percent decrease in the department's funding.

However, UTB will honor the baseball players' scholarships "through graduation," university President Juliet V. García announced at Convocation on Friday morning.

"A lot of people don't know that our athletic program is completely fee based," Lowery said. "In order to maintain our athletic department, we had to make some hard decisions, and that was one of them."

He said the baseball team, which is a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, is something the university is proud of.

"They've had a great record here the last couple of years, and they will be missed," Lowery said. In 2011, the Scorpions finished off their season with a 35-26 record, and

# THE LAST HURRAH

## Baseball team wants to make its final season count



COLLEGIAN FILE PHOTO

He said the baseball team, which is a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics is something the university is proud of.

placed fourth in the 11-team Red River Athletic Conference.

The team qualified for the NAIA National Championship for the second year in a row after taking second place in the RRAC tournament. The Opening Round Tournament of the nationals took place in Oklahoma City, where the Scorpions finished in fifth place.

The Athletics Department is assisting the baseball players with transferring after the season ends, and helping the coaches look for new job opportunities, Lowery said.

"The transfer process really falls on the players," he said. "First they contact schools, then they come to us, the coaches and athletics director, and we

release them from their letter of intent here in campus.

"The coaches will start to look at jobs as the semester progresses, but right now their main focus is to the students and to the upcoming season, and that's where they're putting most of their effort right now."

Senior pitcher Zach Armstrong said it came as a shock to him that UTB would be canceling the baseball program.

"We knew that UTB and TSC were splitting, but we didn't think that canceling a whole program would be the answer to it," Armstrong said.

The international student from Erskine, Alberta, Canada, said that with the decision to revoke the program, he may not be able to come back to

UTB because of the higher tuition international students pay.

But, he is motivated and anticipating a good season for the team.

"Everybody's got that chip on their shoulder," Armstrong said. "Now we're out to prove a point, and we're going to fight for our team and fight for the program."

Senior baseball player Robert Mariscal, a junior infielder/pitcher from Mission, said he will concentrate on earning his master's degree at UTB now that the baseball program will end. Mariscal said his coaches are doing their best to get him to play somewhere else.

"From the looks of it, I'm not too sure if that's going to be possible," Mariscal said.

For now, the players are working together to finish the last season strong. The team had its first practice Sunday.

"We're going to play hard, we're playing for each other now," Mariscal said.

Head Baseball Coach Bryan Aughney told *The Collegian* via email: "All I will say about this season is we will play hard and do our best."

Athletics will drop baseball at the end of this semester, and establish men's and women's cross country teams in Fall 2013.

"It's a good fit for us," Lowery said. "We can make an impact, even nationally."

He said bringing in cross country would be financially appropriate for UTB.

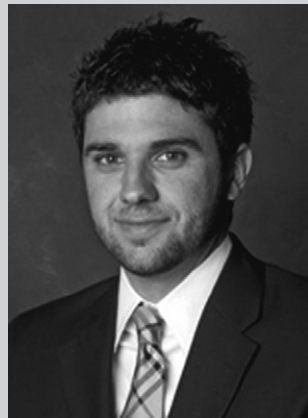
"It downsizes our travel budget and our conference travel gets greatly reduced with cross country over baseball," Lowery said.

He said cross country would cost "about \$80,000 for both programs, and with the field maintenance included on the baseball field, we're at about \$328,000 to \$330,000."

Lowery said Athletics is excited about having the new team. Recruiting will begin in Spring 2013.

"As we get into next year, we'll look into hiring our first coach, and then they'll start the recruiting process next spring to start bringing in kids to compete in the fall of 2013," he said.

## WHO'S YOUR CADDY?



GOLF COACH  
ANTHONY LOPEZ

### When is your first golf tournament?

"For the men, it's going to be Feb.19 and 20, and it's at [the] South Padre Island Golf Club."

### How do you handle being the coach for both men's and women's golf?

"Just like in real life, men and women are like apples and oranges. They're both fruit but they're both very different. It's the same in golf, they both need different things. Coaching them can be tricky, and my time is very limited and precious to the way I have to approach them and their needs basically."

### What are some challenges that you and your team have overcome since last spring?

"On the men's side, the challenge that we've had to overcome is not having everybody compete this past fall. This spring, everyone is going to be refreshed. Other than that, our men were just a few shots from winning the conference tournament for the first time ever. I want to see them come back and have another good showing, and have a chance to win our conference tournament."

"For the women's, this year we have more talent. We have five girls that can play golf, and want to see each other succeed, and want to succeed as a team. And that is the difference from last year, we didn't have that."

"It's just the makeup of the team this year. It's just a lot different from last year. And it's been an absolute pleasure to coach them this past fall, and it's going to be again this spring. We have a great tournament schedule lined up."

-Valerie Nichole Secrease

# The inside story of the national championship

## How tough losses, hard practice and community support got the Scorpions to the top

By Valerie Nichole Secrease  
SPORTS EDITOR

Late into the night of Dec. 3, 2011, the UTB/TSC Volleyball Team took the crown as national champions against the Lady Eagles of Concordia University in Sioux Falls, Iowa.

With a 32-2 record, the women made history by claiming the first national championship for UTB. Athletics Director and Volleyball Coach Todd Lowery said this is the first time any UTB/TSC sport has won a championship title.

"When I was hired here three years ago as the volleyball coach, that was something we thought we could accomplish here," Lowery said.

Aside from the talent of the players, the coach said he owes the success to other factors as well. Recruits and support from the university and community played a role in the victory.

"Luckily, we've had some great recruits come in here, and a lot of support from our administration who let us build this program and a lot of support from the community," Lowery said. "That goes a long way."

With standards raised and almost all starters returning, the coach anticipates a strong comeback in the Fall 2012 season. The team will be losing four seniors: middle blocker Katherina Nobel, setter Amber Brooks, defensive specialist Anayeli Treviño and outside hitter/defensive specialist Belinda Carreon.

Scorpion fans can expect another winning season. Recruiters will be working on having the positions filled.

Lowery said the key to success is to recruit quality players.

Winning the championship was not easy. The team encountered challenging competitors and faced tough losses to get to the top.

"We had a tough semifinal match against Lee [University], who definitely challenged us," Lowery said. "We were down 2-1, that was a big game we recovered from. I felt that once we got past that we

### NAIA Championship Celebration

Who: UTB/TSC Volleyball Team

When: 5 p.m. Friday

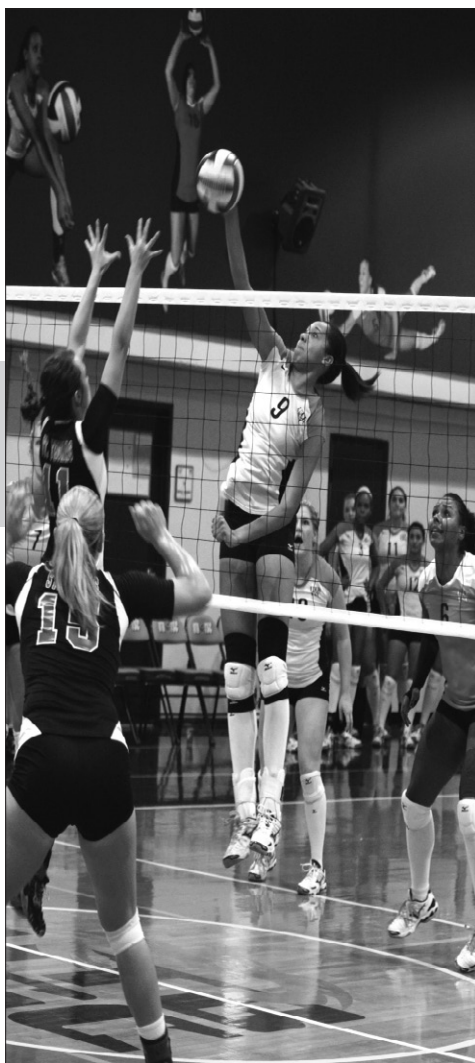
Where: Garza Gym

were pretty confident, and I think the trip out to California in late October opened the girls' eyes a little bit. We made some changes in our rotation and we got a lot better that last month of the season, and it was really due to two losses we suffered that allowed us to win the national title in December."

He said that overall, the women probably played their best match of the game against Concordia.

"We got big production out of Ana Guerra and Vanja Joksic in the middle," Lowery said. "Danica Markovic had a great game that put her in the position to get tournament MVP, Amber Brooks did a great job in the setting position, and then Yenifer Calcaño came up with the big block at the end of the match to win the game," Lowery said.

Before getting to the NAIA nationals, Lowery said there were some adjustments



COLLEGIAN FILE PHOTO

With a 32-2 record, the women made history by claiming the first national championship for UTB.

that had to be made to prepare them for the game.

"We thought we needed a little bit more offense and a little bit better right-side defense, so we moved some kids around to accomplish those things," he said. "Concordia was really heavy from the left side, and a very good left-handed player, which gave us a lot of problems when we played out in California. The adjustments we made seemed to work out well."

Before the Scorpions became national champions, they faced a couple of tough losses that would motivate them to come back with the overall win.

"The Biola [University] match, we just didn't play well, it was our first night out there, we hadn't played a tough match in like a month and a half and they just kind of surprised us," Lowery said. "The loss that really pushed the girls was the loss to Concordia. We played well in California against Concordia and they were just better than us on that night."

"That really refocused the girls and they knew that they had to come back and get better because we played our best match at that point in the season and they were still better than us, so the girls knew they had to come back and work harder those last 30 days, and they did a great job with that."

The university will recognize the volleyball team at 5 p.m. Friday in the Garza Gym. Lowery said there will be T-shirts and posters for fans that the players will be signing. There will also be performances by the UTB/TSC Drumline and UTB/TSC student Nestor AnDress Treviño, brother of defensive specialist Anayeli Treviño, as well as a video of the highlights of the championship game.



# LATE REGISTRATION January 17-19, 2012

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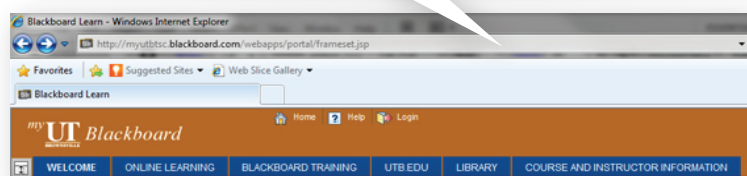
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or

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2

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